

one day obtain her doctorate degree in the field.

Caraline's interest in and commitment to scientific advancement is an inspiration to all those who meet her. At the Arizona Science Center IMAX Theater, Caraline presented Katie's Law to motivate students and demonstrate the ability of one person to make an impact on an entire society. It is individuals like Caraline, whose resolute persistence, determination and resolve to effect meaningful change who truly define our country's values.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this moment to recognize and honor Caraline Sepich. With her sister forever in her heart, I have no doubt that Caraline will continue to accomplish great things in all her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, on June 17, 2014, due to delayed transportation to Washington, I was unable to vote on rollcall 313, final passage of H.R. 3375, to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic," and rollcall 314, final passage of H.R. 1671, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6937 Village Parkway in Dublin, California, as the "James 'Jim' Kohnen Post Office." Had I been present, I intended to vote "yes."

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY ACT OF 2014

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as the nation's capital brings thousands of Americans to Washington, D.C. this tourist season, I rise to reintroduce the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act of 2014. The bill expresses an idea I began working on when the first signs of the closing of parts of our open society appeared after the Oklahoma City bombing, well before 9/11. This bill grows more urgent as an increasing variety of security measures proliferate throughout the country without any thought about the effects on common freedoms and ordinary public access, and often without guidance from the government or bona fide security experts. Take the example of government buildings. Federal building security has gotten so out of control that a tourist passing by some federal buildings cannot even get in to use the restroom or enjoy the many restaurants. The security for federal buildings has too long been unduly influenced by non-security experts, such as the administrator in federal agencies, who do not take into account actual threats and, as a result, spend taxpayer dollars on needless secu-

rity procedures or insist on restricting the public without regard to risk.

Another example is the District of Columbia's only public heliport, which the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) shut down following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, without explanation or means to appeal the decision. Just days after the 9/11 attacks, helicopter service was restored in New York City, the major target of the attacks. However, even twelve years after the attacks, TSA and FAA and particularly the Secret Service still will not permit commercial helicopters to fly to D.C., unlike all other cities in the U.S.

The bill I reintroduce today would begin a systematic investigation that fully takes into account the importance of maintaining our democratic traditions while responding adequately to the real and substantial threat that terrorism poses. To accomplish its difficult mission, the bill authorizes a 21-member commission, with the president designating nine members and the House and Senate each designating six members, to investigate the balance that should be required between openness and security. The commission would be composed not only of military and security experts, but, for the first time at the same table, also experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology, and psychology. To date, questions of security most often have been left almost exclusively to security and military experts. They are indispensable participants, but these experts should not alone resolve all the new and unprecedented issues raised by terrorism in an open society. In order to strike the security/access balance required by our democratic traditions, a diverse group of experts needs to be at the same table.

For years, parts of our open society have gradually been closed down because of terrorism and the fear of terrorism, on an often ad hoc basis. Some federal buildings such as the U.S. Capitol have been able to deal with security issues, and then resume their openness to the public. Others, like the new Department of Transportation headquarters, remain mostly inaccessible to the public. These examples, drawn from the nation's capital, are replicated in public buildings throughout the United States.

After 9/11, Americans expected additional and increased security adequate to protect citizens against the frightening threat of terrorism. However, in our country, people also expect their government to be committed and smart enough to undertake this awesome new responsibility without depriving them of their personal liberty. These times will long be remembered for the rise of terrorism in the world and in this country and for the unprecedented challenges it has brought. Nevertheless, we must provide ever-higher levels of security for our residents and public spaces while maintaining a free and open democratic society. What we have experienced since Oklahoma City and 9/11 is no ordinary threat that we expect to be over in a matter of years. The end point could be generations from now. The indeterminate nature of the threat adds to the necessity of putting aside ad hoc approaches to security developed in isolation from the goal of maintaining an open society.

When we have faced unprecedented and perplexing issues in the past, we have had the

good sense to investigate them deeply before moving to resolve them. Examples include the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman-Robb Commission), and the Kerner Commission, which investigated the riots that swept American cities in the 1960s and 1970s. In the aftermath of the Navy Yard shooting, I wrote to the President of the United States requesting the establishment of an independent panel to investigate issues raised by that tragedy and to evaluate how to secure federal employees who work in facilities like the Navy Yard that are a part of a residential or business community. However, this bill seeks a commission that would act not in the wake of events but before a crisis-level erosion of basic freedoms takes hold and becomes entrenched. Because global terrorism is likely to be long lasting, we cannot afford to allow the proliferation of security measures that neither require nor are subject to civilian oversight or an analysis of alternatives and repercussions on freedom and commerce.

With no vehicles for leadership on issues of security and openness, we have been left to muddle through, using blunt 19th-century approaches, such as crude blockades, unsightly barriers around beautiful monuments, and other signals that our society is closing down, all without appropriate exploration of possible alternatives. The threat of terrorism to an open society is too serious to be left to ad hoc problem-solving. Such approaches are often as inadequate as they are menacing.

We can do better, but only if we recognize and come to grips with the complexities associated with maintaining a society of free and open access in a world characterized by unprecedented terrorism. The place to begin is with a high-level commission of experts from a broad array of disciplines to help chart the new course that will be required to protect our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

CAPITOL HILL OCEAN WEEK AND OCEAN PROTECTION

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of smart and sustainable management of our country's oceans and fishery systems. America's ocean resources are an important part of our economy and environment and we must work to protect and maintain them.

The seafood industry plays a crucial role in communities across our nation. For example, the Mid-Atlantic region's seafood industry has generated over 137,000 jobs, \$18 billion in sales, and \$4 billion in income. More sales impacts were generated by importers in New Jersey than any other sector in any other state in the region at \$5.5 billion. Employment impacts in New Jersey were the highest in the region with over 13,000 full- and part-time jobs generated by recreational fishing activities in the state.

As researchers, fisheries, and various ocean experts visit Capitol Hill in honor of Capitol Hill